



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/618,389

07/14/2003

Paul Murrell

3337

7590

04/19/2005

Paul Murrell
1650 Witt Hill Drive
Spring Hill, TN 37174

EXAMINER

LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/618,389	Applicant(s) MURRELL, PAUL	
	Examiner Kim R. Lockett	Art Unit 2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/4/05
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6365808 in view of <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> and <http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>.

The applicant claims the use of a revised string arrangement for a musical instrument utilizing six string with different diameters placed in specific positions.

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 discloses the use of a revised string arrangement for a musical instrument utilizing six strings with different diameters placed in specific positions and further discloses a method of construction of stringed instruments that partially reverses the size order of tuned strings in order to yield new and unusual harmonies and melodies while playing the instrument in a conventional manner.

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 does not disclose the use of strings with different diameters placed in specific positions as recited by the applicant.

<http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> discloses a means for tuning guitars. Guitars normally increase consecutively in diameter using the tuning of EADGBE. However, as taught by <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> it is well known for the musician to select any desired tuning for the desired musical effect.

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 and <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> Do not disclose the specific diameters as disclosed by the applicant.

<http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>. Discloses a design means for musical instrument strings using different diameters in order to achieve a specific frequency. Similarly it is well known for the musician to select any desired diameter in order to achieve the desired musical effect.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6365808 and the variance of tunings as disclosed by <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> and the variance of diameters as disclosed by <http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>. in order to achieve a user's desired tuning and frequency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6365808 in view of <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> and <http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>.

The applicant claims the use of a revised string arrangement for a musical instrument utilizing six string with different diameters placed in specific positions.

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 discloses the use of a revised string arrangement for a musical instrument utilizing six strings with different diameters placed in specific positions and further discloses a method of construction of stringed instruments that partially reverses the size order of tuned strings in order to yield new and unusual harmonies and melodies while playing the instrument in a conventional manner (column 4, lines 60-65).

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 does not disclose the use of strings with different diameters placed in specific positions as recited by the applicant.

<http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> discloses a means for tuning guitars. Guitars normally increase consecutively in diameter using the tuning of EADGBE. However, as taught by <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> it

Art Unit: 2837

is well known for the musician to select any desired tuning for the desired musical effect.

U.S. Patent No. 6365808 and <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm>

Do not disclose the specific diameters as disclosed by the applicant.

<http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>.

Discloses a design means for musical instrument strings using different diameters in order to achieve a specific frequency. Similarly it is well known for the musician to select any desired diameter in order to achieve the desired musical effect.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6365808 and the variance of tunings as disclosed by <http://www.netsector.com/tony/guitar/alternate.htm> and the variance of diameters as disclosed by <http://www.terrydownsmusic.com/technotes/StringGauges/STRINGS.HTM>. in order to achieve a user's desired tuning and frequency.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center at 703-872-9306.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC)** whose telephone number is **800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-7615**, after 2/3/04 my new number will be **(571) 272-2067**. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107.


KIMBERLY LOCKETT
PRIMARY EXAMINER